

House Resolution 888

By: Representatives Benfield of the 85th, Drenner of the 86th, Oliver of the 83rd, and Henson of the 87th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the DeKalb County School Board to offer the International Community School the
2 use of the Forrest Hills Elementary School property when and if that school is consolidated
3 under the present redistricting plan; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the International Community School (ICS) is a public charter school whose
5 mission is to provide refugee, immigrant, and mainstream children with an outstanding
6 education in an intentionally international environment; and

7 WHEREAS, ICS won the United Way's Valuing Diversity Award in 2006; and

8 WHEREAS, ICS was chosen for showcasing by the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in
9 Education; and

10 WHEREAS, ICS continues to collaborate with several community partners including Emory
11 University, The Coca-Cola Company, the United Way, Home Depot, Refugee Family
12 Services, Hands on Atlanta, and many others; and

13 WHEREAS, CNN profiled ICS in a nationally televised piece entitled "Diversity by Design,"
14 thereby providing a positive public face for the DeKalb County Public School System and
15 public education in Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, ICS continues to be one of the top recorded schools for attendance in DeKalb
17 County; and

18 WHEREAS, the Forrest Hills Education Association and members of the Forrest Hills
19 Neighborhood Association have expressed their desire to see ICS occupy the Forrest Hills
20 Building; and

1 WHEREAS, the United Methodist Children's Home, which donated the land for the building
2 of Forrest Hills Elementary, has also written a letter of support for ICS's use of the facility;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the charter school law states that property "otherwise unused shall make such
5 facility or property available for lease or purchase by a local charter school on the same basis
6 as it makes such facility or property available to other public schools under the control and
7 management of the local board of education"; and

8 WHEREAS, the law further states, "The local board and the state board shall treat a start-up
9 charter school no less favorably than other local schools within the applicable local system
10 with respect to the provision of funds for instruction and school administration and, where
11 feasible, transportation, food services, and building programs."

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
13 the DeKalb County School Board is urged to offer the International Community School the
14 use of the Forrest Hills Elementary School property when and if that school is consolidated
15 under the present redistricting plan.